

DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
BRIEFING MEMORANDUM

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January 11, 1980

CONFIDENTIAL

MEMORANDUM

To: The Secretary  
Through: S/R - Frank Loy  
From: RP - John A. Baker  
Subject: Your Talks with Pakistani Foreign Minister:  
Increase in U.S. Refugee Assistance to  
Afghans in Pakistan

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/C

REVIEWED BY [Signature] DATE

DD ☐ or XDS ☐ EXT. DATE  
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EXEMPTIONS  
FOI or FOI EXEMPTIONS

1. NSC staff has informed us that the President directed on January 9 an increase in U.S. assistance for Afghan refugees of \$6 million over and above the \$5.3 million for PL-480 and freight which AID/FFP has recently agreed to supply through the World Food Program (WFP) segment of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees' (UNHCR) Program. He indicated that a total of up to \$25 million could be committed if the number of refugees doubles from the current 400,000 to 800,000 or more. He added that, "Direct US-Pakistani bilateral assistance to the refugees will be pursued at least as an option."

2. We strongly recommend that the U. S. plan to continue to provide -- in PL-480 food and in cash (dollars and/or rupees) -- one-third of the cost of the expanding UNHCR-WFP Program for relief of Afghan refugees in Pakistan. The details of this program will be available to us after the January 16-17 meeting we are having here with UNHCR representatives. I believe they will project a combined UNHCR-WFP calendar 1980 program based on 500,000 Afghan refugees on the order of \$54 million. For the remaining 9 months of the fiscal year this will be in the order of \$41 million. At this level, the U. S. one-third share

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would be approximately \$13.5 million (of which \$5.3 million has already been committed to by AID/Food for Peace in food commodities and freight costs). We would propose an addition in FY 1980 of \$8.2 million in commodities and cash (dollars and/or rupees) using, as much as possible, food commodities we hope will be made available to AID/FFP from the cancelled grain sale by the USSR. However, these estimates cannot be firm without the details of the UNHCR program (which will also specify the required foodstuffs, etc.)

3. In response to the President's interest in bilateral options, we would suggest that these be viewed not as alternatives, but as add-ons, over and above our input into a combined UNHCR-WFP program. We would also suggest that, as much as possible, we fund this, with Pakistani agreement, through the use of several million dollars worth of the counterpart Pakistani rupee funds jointly under U. S.-Pakistani supervision. Possible refugee-related local applications of such funds could be: tents, blankets, in-country food shipment costs, locally available foods and medicines, and, conceivably, rupee subsidies to refugees so they can buy provisions in local markets prior to the full initiation of a WFP food project. Additionally, we could consider using a modest amount of dollar funds (up to \$1 million) from the Refugee Emergency Fund for items such as non-military communications equipment not available in Pakistan.

4. FYI: It will be extremely difficult to handle by reprogramming any program which will reach \$25 million in multilateral input and several million more in bilateral input. Therefore, we would urge maximum use of rupees and an increased capability for the U. S. Food for Peace program, obtained by supplements now under consideration, to provide a large food component in our contribution to the UNHCR-WFP program.

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